

Translation

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)**

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference C-679PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/005943	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 25.04.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant KABUSHIKI KAISHA NIPPON CONLUX		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of _____ sheets, as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions). <input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005943

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

 - international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:
 pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:
 nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:
 sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____
 the claims, nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/figs _____
 the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
 any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/005943

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-16</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-16</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2002-92683 A (Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd.), 29 March 2002

Document 2: JP 9-231438 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 5 September 1997

Document 3: JP 5-73753 A (Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd.), 26 March 1993

Document 4: JP 5-290167 A (Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd.), 5 November 1993

The inventions set forth in claims 1, 6 to 9 and 14 to 16 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 (paragraphs 0070 to 0073) and document 2 (paragraphs 0013 to 0016). Document 2 sets forth a technical means of identifying a paper sheet using identification data corrected based on detected unnecessary images, and it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to apply said technical means to the sheet identifying device which extracts an image of a watermark area to identify sheets, to constitute inventions similar to those set forth in claims 1, 6 to 9 and 14 to 16 of this application.

The inventions set forth in claims 2 to 4 and 10 to

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

12 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 (paragraphs 0070 to 0073), document 2 (paragraphs 0013 to 0016) and document 3 (paragraphs 0023 to 0028). In addition to the points mentioned with regard to claim 1, document 3 sets forth a technical means which extracts an image with the calculated center of gravity as a base point, and it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to apply the technical means set forth in documents 2 and 3 to the sheet identifying device set forth in document 1 to constitute inventions similar to those set forth in claims 2 to 4 and 10 to 12 of this application.

The inventions set forth in claims 5 and 13 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 (paragraphs 0070 to 0073), document 2 (paragraphs 0013 to 0016), document 3 (paragraphs 0023 to 0028) and document 4 (paragraphs 0009 to 0013). In addition to the points set forth for claim 1, document 4 sets forth a technical means of representing the characteristic quantity of an identification image area using surface area, peripheral length and the like, and it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to employ the technical means set forth in documents 2 to 4 to the sheet identifying device set forth in document 1 to constitute inventions similar to those set forth in claims 5 to 13 of this application.